

Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant Status Report

Date 5-27-2008

Team Chair(s): Helene Grossman, Carole Richardson, Arlie Willems,

Team Name: Collaborative Plus

Narrative – Please describe the status of the team’s work toward its goal(s) at this time, recent strategies implemented, and next steps anticipated. Submit to Mary Beth Schroeder Fracek, Iowa Department of Education, marybeth.schroederfracek@iowa.gov

Work accomplished/strategies implemented since last report:

- 1). A group of P-12, AEA, and IHE professionals was convened to develop a set of competencies necessary for teachers to possess in order to meet the needs of all learners in the general education classroom. These competencies – addressing specific knowledge, skills, and dispositions – were created with four learner groups as foci: English language learners, students who are at risk for school failure, students who are talented and gifted, and students with disabilities. After drafting these competencies, they were disseminated to other professionals in the field for their input. These competencies were also shared with attendees at conferences in September and January for further vetting.
- 2). Two team members attended national conferences on differentiation.
- 3). The team planned and implemented a ‘kick-off’ session for Collaborative Plus activities in conjunction with the September 2007 meeting of the Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (IACTE). For this day-long interactive session, teacher educators were provided opportunities to discuss/explore theories and methods critical in preparing new teachers for today’s increasingly diverse classrooms. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Aida Wahlqui, an international expert on bilingual education and cultural and linguistic diversity. At the conclusion of this session, participants were given a survey to assess their needs for further information and support. Approximately 80 individuals attended this session.
- 4). A page on the DE website was created to highlight the Collaborative Plus initiative. This page includes, among other information, presentations by Dr. Aida Wahlqui and supporting materials as offered at the September 2007 session. The page continues to be updated as more Collaborative Plus activity occurs.
- 5). The Collaborative Plus team met to review survey results from the September ‘kick-off’ session and to plan a two day workshop to be offered in January 2008. In addition to fine-tuning the planned structure of the workshop, the team generated ideas for ‘local expert’ resources.
- 6). Collaborative Plus team-members and technical support personnel worked with a representative from the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDE)’ IDEA partnership to set up a link on the Shared Work website for use by participants in the

Collaborative Plus initiative. This website allows participants to be informed of announcements, post documents, retrieve documents, and hold threaded discussions regarding their participation and progress toward the Collaborative Plus goals.

7). On January 10 and 11, approximately 124 participants attended the “Experts Learning and Sharing” conference. The objectives of the workshop were:

- 1) Participants will analyze their own courses regarding preparation to teach the diverse learners in today’s schools – looking at strengths of their courses and areas to strengthen. Such analysis will be followed by a plan as needed for such strengthening.
- 2) Teams of participants will analyze their own teacher education programs regarding preparation to teach the diverse learners in today’s schools – looking at strengths of their programs and areas to strengthen. Such analysis will be followed by a plan as needed for such strengthening.

Teams of participants have been developing plans for moving their practitioner preparation programs further toward the goals of the Collaborative Plus initiative. As teams finish their plans, these are posted on the Shared Work website for others to view and to facilitate connections between institutions working on similar goals. At present, five IHE teams have submitted plans, four of these are posted on Shared Work.

8). Learning Points Associates developed a survey that was distributed to participants who attended the January 10 and 11 “Experts Learning and Sharing” conference. The survey assessed the degree to which participants felt the workshop impacted their practitioner preparation programs. Further assessment is being undertaken in this area.

9). Teams who participated in the January 10 and 11 “Experts Learning and Sharing” conference were given the opportunity of selecting and receiving a collection of professional development books/resources addressing the goals of Collaborative Plus. These professional library materials were provided at no cost to the institutions.

Next steps:

1). As IHE teams complete their action plans and submit them for posting, the team will be developing a structure for facilitating interaction and for providing follow-up professional development based on individual team needs and survey results.

2). The team is planning an education summit involving representatives from all educational stakeholders in the state. The summit will be held October 28 and 29, 2008 and will focus on the goals of the Collaborative Plus initiative. An additional goal for the summit will be to build connections between groups of stakeholders toward joint efforts in meeting the needs of all learners in the general classroom.

3). The DE website page sharing information about the Collaborative Plus initiative goals and activities will continue to be updated as new events occur.

Attached: supporting documents